

THE RADICAL GERMANS.

AS REQUIRED BY THE CONVENTION OF THREE
MILLIONAIRES AT CLEVELAND, OCT. 22ND, 1863.

[Transmitted for the *Liberator* from the *People* of Oct. 26th.]

Inspired with the desire to work together, according to their strength, and in obedience to their convictions, for the good of the Republic, but at the same time constrained by the necessity of securing for themselves that respect and appreciation which justice must accord to every well-meaning citizen of the Republic, and which will respect enforce upon every freeman the duty to obtain, the Radical Germans, casting off all party ties, and declaring war against every corruption, have put on end to their impious dismemberment by an organization whose chief aim, in connection with their fellow-citizens of American descent who are of the same mind, is to labor for the accomplishment of the following principles and measures:—

1. The integrity of the Union, and the subordination of the separate States to the sovereignty of the Confederation in all national affairs.
2. The abolition of slavery throughout the entire domain of the United States, and in the shortest way possible.
3. The unconditional suppression of the rebellion.
4. Retention of the Federal Constitution in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence.
5. Treatment of the reconquered rebel States as territories, with a view to reconstruction.
6. Cession of the confiscated lands to settlers, in the spirit of the Homestead Law, as well as donation of suitable portions to the country's defenders of every color, and to the emancipated slaves.
7. Enforcement of the Monroe doctrine.
8. Alliance with the European revolution, to ward off foreign intervention.
9. Security of freedom of speech and of the press against military arbitrariness.
10. Introduction of a national system of defence after the manner of the Swiss General, or a similar obligation to bear arms.
11. Support of those candidates for public office who approach nearest to the principles of this platform.

ELUCIDATIONS.

CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE.

More than any former period, the present administration is to recognize in the proclamation of the equal rights of man by the Declaration of Independence the only true fundamental law of republican life, unchangeably enshrined in the Constitution, and still more party politics. To bring and to keep the Constitutional and political union with this fundamental law, the single means of putting an end to the pernicious consequences of that renunciation, and of making genuine from a seeming republic.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION AND THE WAR.

In the formidable war against the slaveholders' rebellion, the Republic has to expiate the guilt of a pact, but at the same time to seek the radical means for the security of its future. Without this insight, and this resolution, it would inevitably work its own destruction by suicide. Therefore, every policy which shrinks from the following demands must be painful compromise to be entered upon with the rebellion which, spite of the position of a belligerent power conceded to it by the Federal Government and by foreign nations, cannot lose the nature of the crime, high treason; and therefore can be ended only by a conditional suppression.

1. Under no circumstances is a peaceful convention or compromise to be entered upon with the rebellion which, spite of the position of a belligerent power conceded to it by the Federal Government and by foreign nations, cannot lose the nature of the crime, high treason; and therefore can be ended only by a conditional suppression.
2. The security of peace is only possible through the annihilation of the cause of the war, slavery. Therefore ought the Confiscation Law to be vigorously enforced, and the proclamation of January last maintained in its fullest extent; but in the territory not affected by this proclamation, there should be brought about, with the least possible delay, a definite decision in regard to the abolition of slavery, whether through the voluntary act of the States concerned, or through an edict of Congress, or through the power. The repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law should be one of the earliest tasks of the next Congress.
3. Rebellion and secession are a destruction of the right of States to govern themselves, and fully empowered Congress arbitrarily to rule the reconquered rebellious territory until it is restored to a harmonious condition with the free and loyal States.
4. The lands acquired through confiscation by the United States Government in the course of the war should only be dealt out in small portions to veterans.

settlements, as far as they have not been bestowed on the emancipated slaves and the soldiers of the Republic.

ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution of the United States has needed a revision in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence, and of the principles herein laid down.

CITIZENSHIP AT THE SOUTH AND COLONIZATION AT THE SEABOARD.

The crudeness of the masses constitutes a heavy burden on the hands of sectionalists, slaveholders, and all enemies of the republic. It is accordingly the duty of Congress, in all the reconquered territory which comes under its jurisdiction, to care for the culture of the people, not only among the emancipated slaves, but also among the whites. The colonization abroad of the negroes would be no benefit to them, and no advantage to the country, while their settlement as laborers on the confiscated lands would produce benefits for freedom and for the nation than the force of their domination of their respective masters.

FOREIGN POLICY.

Peace and friendship with friendly-minded nations unaccompanied sympathically with the struggles for freedom on the part of every people, but decisive procedure against every pretension of despotic governments, especially when the Monroe doctrine is in question should be the guiding rule of our foreign policy.

The French invasion of Mexico is nothing else than flagrant filibusterism on a large scale, arising from ambition for rule and plunder, begun in hypocrisy, lying, carried on with perfidy and knavery, and ending in murder and tyranny. But it is at the same time a bold menace and a shocking contempt of people of the United States to whom the arrogance of a successful conqueror of republics has thrown down the gauntlet of mortal feud. Moreover, this menace and contempt lose nothing of their character by the encouragement which they have found in shortsighted and offensive Administration at Washington. The honor, no less than the security of the Republic, requires that the gloomy plot of the French usurper be thwarted by every means, and that the government elected by the people of the neighboring republic, be again established in its undisturbed and sovereign power. And the strength of the United States allows us, and the honor of the Republic commands us, once proudly and boldly to declare, that in the signs of the French grant upon this continent is brought to be and shall be put by the will and might of the free people of North America.

The so-called non intervention policy, which now rejects every alliance a stigma, can no longer correspond to the circumstances and exigencies of time, but in the long run, the most ruinous consequences may attend that policy which inaugurates the departure from the advice of Washington by alliance which is contrary to the character of the Republic, which must deprive it of the sympathies of people of Europe, which converts it (at least nominally) into the tool of a despotism as crafty as its enemies, and which makes it indirectly the accomplice in horrible subjugation of other peoples. The most worthy, powerful and natural alliance of the North American republic is the European republics, and every attempt at a forcible intervention of monarchs in the affairs of this continent should be prevented with an intervention in favor of the republican principle. For the United States have the means to the hand, without peril and great sacrifice, to repel every European assault by support of the European republics, and with security from all foreign interference to win for themselves the glory of initiating the liberation of the world.

